

UNITED WAY
HELPS OUR COMMUNITY

ADAPT AND
OVERCOME

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



United Way of the
Mohawk Valley



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

In the past year, our community has faced many challenges due to COVID-19. United Way of the Mohawk Valley has, however, stepped up in a time of crisis to create innovative solutions. We are committed to being an unwavering pillar of resiliency.

The pandemic drastically changed the landscape of our everyday lives, bringing new and evolving challenges. It ripped the band-aid off hot-button issues that our community already faced, including racial inequity, access to affordable and reliable childcare, disparity in income, and food insecurity.

As a leading problem-solver, innovator, and connector in our community, United Way MV transformed our work to deliver new solutions. We put hundreds of thousands of meals on tables, assisted families and schools through educational transitions, leveraged our 211 service and Volunteers United platform, quickly linked residents to safe housing, and launched a brand-new, first-of-its-kind extended-day childcare center. Our strategic investments continued to fund and support dozens of programs as they beat the odds and reworked their services to help thousands of people in the Mohawk Valley.

Our work is not done. Our community needs us as we move forward, recover, and rebuild. Your help is integral to our work. Because of your support we will keep leading the way to a better tomorrow.

Thank You,

Erin Gutierrez Matt

CEO, United Way of the Mohawk Valley

OUR IMPACT

UNITED WAY MV MAKES AN IMPACT IN THE LIVES OF 1 IN 3 PEOPLE IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY.



\$3.1 million dollars raised from donors and grants.

4,260 children were given support to **succeed in school.**

65,823 individuals were provided outlets to achieve and sustain **healthy lifestyles.**

8,163 community members received assistance to help them become more **financially stable.**

150,000 masks distributed to community members.

33 local programs within 23 partner agencies funded, plus 5 initiatives powered by United Way of the Mohawk Valley.

Learn more at unitedwaymv.org/ourwork

HOUSING IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Without stable housing, it is difficult for anyone to obtain an education or job and meet their basic needs. Hence, why a “Housing First” model is so important.

Housing and homelessness have been a focus of United Way of the Mohawk Valley for many years. However, the current pandemic has impacted area residents in ways that have made the challenges related to obtaining or keeping safe and affordable housing even more critical.

United Way MV secured two grants totaling \$532,657. These grants allowed United Way MV and our partners to further prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impact of the pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving assistance in Oneida County.

United Way’s Housing Team works side-by-side with local agencies, and together we are using data to drive solutions that are fair and efficient. Our team is vital to ensuring shelter residents and homeless individuals can be quickly connected to safe housing and additional resources.

Data maintained within the HMIS system is crucial to our ability to help those in the Mohawk Valley, helping providers better understand why families and individuals are becoming homeless and we can better address the root causes of homelessness.

Learn more about our housing work. unitedwaymv.org/housing

🎯 \$479,175

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYS OTDA) was given to Oneida County Department of Family and Community Services and awarded United Way of the MV to expand their efforts around housing insecurity.



🎯 \$53,482

ESG-CV Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) awarded from HUD through NYS OTDA to United Way MV to collect the data on homelessness during COVID-19.

ACCESS TO FOOD: TAKE & MAKE MEAL BOXES

PROVIDING HEALTHY MEALS TO MEET INCREASED NEED

During the pandemic, food insecurity has impacted more people than ever. Access to healthy food continues to burden many families in the Mohawk Valley.

In addition to financial support for local food pantries and kitchens, United Way of the Mohawk Valley launched an array of unique food give away series. Our Take & Make food distributions provided 140,000 fresh and healthy meals to residents in the Mohawk Valley through five different giveaways.

We partnered with Casa Imports and Karam Produce, to include fresh produce, meat, seafood, and other ingredients, plus step-by-step recipes.

135,500 MEALS

City of Utica Family Take & Make Meal Boxes Series:

Funding: City of Utica, Community Development Block Grant CV – CARES Act.

2,500 MEALS

Take & Make Food Boxes for the Elderly:

Partners: Parkway Senior Center in Utica and Verona Beach, 4C's Senior Center in Rome and MV Jr. Frontiers.

Funding: Anonymous Donor

2,500 MEALS + \$100 GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Holiday Take & Make Food Boxes for Families:

Partners: Academics First Childcare Center and MV Jr. Frontiers. Families

Funding: Anonymous Donor



"A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved with the food box distribution! The dishes we have made with the recipes and ingredients were SO DELICIOUS! Living on a very low income is a challenge, but having amazing resources available in Utica is a life-saver!"

JOSLYN - MEAL BOX RECIPIENT, CITY OF UTICA

LAUNCHING THE REGION'S FIRST EXTENDED-DAY CHILDCARE CENTER DURING A PANDEMIC

There are many barriers that keep families living in poverty. One of the root causes is the inability to work due to lack of needed childcare. By offering a safe and reliable center for children to learn and grow allows parents to obtain or keep a job that supports their families and helping to break the cycle of poverty. From this problem, a solution was created with Academics First.

In July of 2020, the doors opened to Academics First, the region's first and only licensed extended-day childcare center during a global pandemic. Entering a challenging industry during a challenging year was no small feat.

In a year where many childcare centers closed their doors, Academics First was born and thrived. United Way of the Mohawk Valley's leadership, perseverance of the staff at Academics First, and the support of local parents made bringing this much needed solution for childcare to the Mohawk Valley.

Academics First is located on Genesee Street in Utica, and currently operating Monday – Friday, 6am – 6pm providing care for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old.

Learn more about Academics First. unitedwaymv.org/ESPRI

30 JOBS CREATED & 100 CHILDREN IMPACTED



The Making of Academic's First:

The road to bringing this first-of-a-kind center to the Mohawk Valley was a labor of love and took an entire community to make it happen. In 2016, NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo announced ESPRI (Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative), a multi-million-dollar effort to fight poverty in NYS with the City of Utica as one of eleven cities awarded funds to begin a process in identifying the barriers to getting out of poverty in local communities.

As an expert in identifying and solving our community's most pressing challenges, United Way of the Mohawk Valley was chosen to lead this effort locally.

After hundreds of focus groups, meetings, and conversations with those struggling to overcome poverty, alongside collaborations with local government and leaders, five priorities were identified. One of the top priorities was safe and reliable childcare beyond the typical Monday - Friday, 9am – 5pm workday. This type of childcare would assist families with the ability to obtain and keep more jobs, specifically those working second and third shifts.

STAYING CONNECTED TO FAMILIES, EVEN WHEN APART

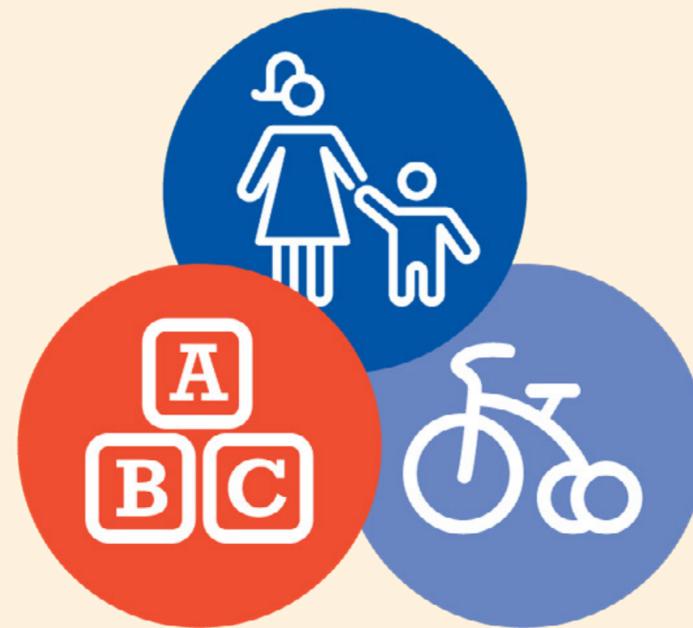
Ready for Kindergarten addresses the many barriers that hinder a child from being ready to learn, while creating positive connections between school and community.

In 2020, school buildings closed due to the pandemic, and education became virtual. For months, families' homes became their children's classrooms. Virtual learning brought new strains for students, parents, caregivers, and educators.

United Way's Family School Navigators were there to help with the transition to remote learning. They connected with families of students who were not attending or struggling to attend remote sessions, identified their needs, and aided in furthering their remote learning abilities. They stayed connected with families by utilizing our teleconnect software for virtual and secure meetings with families.

Many families felt the additional impact of their children's access to school provided lunches. While many schools continued to prepare lunches for families to pick-up, many did not have transportation. Our family school navigators stepped in, delivering food, school packets, and other needed resources to family's homes.

Learn more about R4K. unitedwaymv.org/r4k



THE R4K APPROACH

Birth to age five are the most important years in a child's brain development. Our holistic approach supports families during a child's first few years with a focus on education, social-emotional impacts, and physical well-being.

EDUCATIONAL

Early identification of developmental delays can allow for support and resources sooner, having a significant impact on a child's ability to learn new skills and thrive.

Examples: Meeting developmental milestones such as crawling, walking, eye-hand coordination, speech, and more.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL

Social and emotional skills play a huge role laying the foundation for success in school and life.

Examples: Regulating emotions, following instructions, sharing with others, and showing empathy.

PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Access to healthcare helps improve a child's welfare and development.

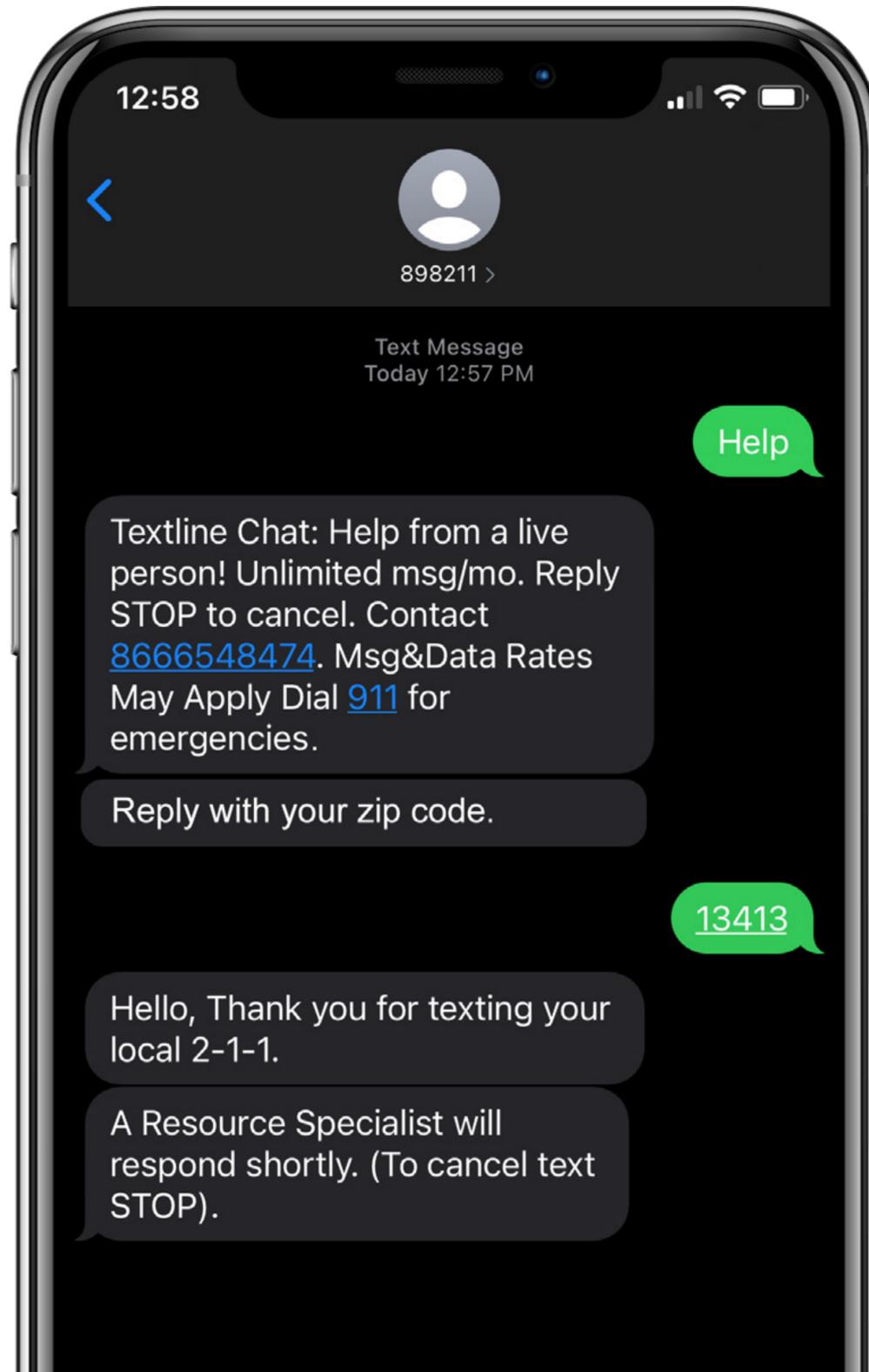
Examples: Regular wellness check-ups, dental visits, immunizations, sight and hearing screenings, and more.

THE DATABASE BUILT TO DELIVER LOCAL SOLUTION POWERS CONNECTIONS

211 continues to be the best outlet to connect people to help. This past year, we leveraged our 211 call center network to assist Oneida County government with their COVID-19 hotline.

Our easy and convenient 211 texting service changed the way we connect with our community. Through this service, we brought a local racial justice survey, led by Hamilton College, to the hands of our community members. It also created an easy way for residents to sign-up for our food distribution.

Learn more about 211. unitedwaymv.org/211



205% INCREASED USE OF THE TEXT PLATFORM

Alongside 211's partnerships to support our community, it's texting platform also continued to help individuals schedule tax preparation appointments and offer support for those struggling with opioid use.

8,433 CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES THROUGH USE OF OUR 211 TEXT PLATFORM

Our easy to navigate 211 website meets people where they are comfortable when searching for resources and help. 211 continues to be the best way to connect people to help when they need it.

THE GIFT OF TIME: VOLUNTEERS UNITED

CREATING A VIRTUAL PLATFORM TO CONNECT NON-PROFITS AND VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make an important impact for many non-profits. Our community looks to United Way as a volunteer hub, from non-profits in need of volunteers, to those looking to give their time and skillsets. By utilizing technology and innovation, we launched Volunteers United, an online platform to connect the community members and non-profits. Volunteers United has helped to keep our community connected even when the pandemic kept us apart.

Any local non-profit can utilize our Volunteers United platform and post their volunteer needs. Non-profits can be more efficient and effective in coordinating volunteer opportunities, while expanding their volunteer network, and streamlining communications. Volunteers United also makes tracking and creating reports easier than ever.

Volunteers United not only benefits local non-profits, but individuals, community groups, and companies as well! Those looking to give their time can quickly search and discover local volunteer opportunities that match their passions.

Local companies, organizations, schools, and other groups can boost their impact, and track their volunteer time as a collective.

Learn more about Volunteers United. unitedwaymv.org/volunteer

- 36 Local nonprofits set up profiles
- 79 Volunteer opportunities have been posted
- 511 Volunteers created user accounts
- 423 Volunteer hours have been filled!



"I've been blessed in my life, and I want to share what I can to make sure other people are taken care of. I feel like giving back is important, sharing my blessings forward to make a difference is why I volunteer."

GEORGE - VOLUNTEER, CITY OF UTICA

2019-2020 FINANCIALS

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$506,936
Promises to give, net of allowance	\$622,070
Grants receivable	\$493,204
Prepaid expenses	\$20,574

Total current assets	\$1,642,784
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PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, NET	\$25,409
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OTHER ASSETS:

Custodial funds	\$6,764
Beneficial interest in agency funds held by third party	\$1,110,350

Total other assets	\$1,117,350
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,785,543
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Campaign designations payable	2020 \$226,318
Accounts payable	\$88,919
Accrued expenses	\$87,639
Other current liabilities	\$15,500

Total current liabilities	\$418,376
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LONG-TERM DEBT:	\$217,777
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Custodial Funds	\$6,764
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$642,917
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NET ASSETS:

Without donor restrictions	\$1,533,889
With donor restrictions	\$608,737

Total net assets	\$2,142,626
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,785,543
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Numbers represent fiscal year from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

For most up-to-date financial reports and information, visit unitedwaymv.org/financials

2020 LEADERSHIP DONORS

Alexis de Tocqueville Society

\$20,000+

Bank of Utica

H. Thomas Clark, Jr.

& Bernadette T. Clark

Utica National Insurance Group

\$10,000 - \$19,999

CONMED Corporation

Curt & Beth Hartman

Hannaford

Indium Corporation of America

Lupini Construction, Inc.

Mary H. Vicks

McCraith Beverages, Inc.

Ronald & Sheila Cuccaro

Utica First Insurance Company

Anonymous - 1

Leadership Society

\$7,000-\$9,999

Elizabeth & Larry Gilroy
Pinny & George Kuckel

\$5,000-\$6,999

Adirondack Bank
Cris & Ann Brodock
John Eckmair
Denyse & Greg Evans
Steven & Beth Guzski
Christopher & Virginia Kelly
Alan & Nina Leist
M&T Bank
Northland Communications
Observer-Dispatch
Rising Phoenix Holdings Corporation
John F. & Jackie Romano
Gary & Marcia Scalzo
Sturges Manufacturing Company
Judy V. Sweet
The Fountainhead Group, Inc.
Vicks
Dwight E. Vicks III

\$2,000-\$4,999

Ross & Julie Berntson
Timothy A. Butcher
Don & Edie Carbone
Charles A. Gaetano Construction Corp.
Jim & Meg Clifford
Cliff's Local Market
Heather L. & Richard A. Cohen
Patricia DeFerio
ECR International
Fastrac
Mr. & Mrs.* Walter T. Foley
Blake & Cathy Ford
Marianne & Peter Gaige
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Jonas Kelly & Heidi Jones
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Steve & Amanda Mandia
Dr. W. Anthony & Carol B. Mandour
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Dan & Pam Meehan
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Gregory M. Morra
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Mr. & Mrs. John B. Stetson
Stewart's/Dake Family
Stephen & Gina Surace
Swedish Match North America
Symeon & Shelli Tsoupelis
Bernie Turi
United Parcel Service
Utica Gas & Electric EFCU
Dale & Eve M. Van de Wal
WalMart Distribution Center #6038
WalMart Foundation
Harry & Ruth Wolfe
Zurschmit Family
Anonymous - 1

Oak Level \$1,000-\$1,999

Ilisrael Acosta
Mark & Kathy Angelucci
Rocco & Victoria Arcuri
Tracy Bach
Ruth & Gene Blackburn
Elizabeth Bowers
Bruce & Shannon Brach
Drs. James Bramley & Patricia Lane
David & Valerie Brown
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Kristyn Bucciero Beckwith
C2C Construction Solutions
Callanan Industries, Inc.
John & Beth Calogero
Celia Construction, Inc.
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Paul & Andrea Cohen
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Cooper

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Kevin R. Crosley
Robert & Laraine* Dell
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Dennis Dobkin
Wink Doolittle & Linda O'Connor
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Kyle & Julie Tomlin
Paul & Lori Totaro
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Utica District Telephone EFCU
Laura J. Walker
Jim Wallace
Lynne M. Williams
David & Pamela Wojnas
Stephen R. Zogby & Noreen E. Sheridan
Anonymous - 6

\$500-\$999

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Steve & Catherine Alessandrini
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Peter T. Baildon
Michelle R. Barbano
Preston C. Bassett, Jr.
Betty-Joan Beaudry
Jaime Bonfardice
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Emerson Brown, Jr.
Lori K. Brown
Kyle C. Burch
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Clare Burth
Tricia A. Bushee
Honorable Marc W. Butler
Rory M. Butler
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Barbara W. Cain
Cathy A. Castor
Julie Castor

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Lawrence J. Combs
Patrick J. Costello
Mary Patricia A. Cotter
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Caleigh DiMaggio
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Cindy M. Domingue-Hendrickson
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Margaret Higgerson

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Gerald Lampman
Sara Larabee
Sandra R. LaSalle
Michael Lawless
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Jaclyn T. McDowell
Myles McKeone
Meelan's Carpet One Floor & Home
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Maribel Morales

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Cynthia Phillips
Hilarie Pirger
Pratt & Whitney HMI Metal Powders
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Kenneth S. Williams
Maggie Williams
Marie Williams
Diana Wolgemuth
Melissa A. Young
Harrison Zogby
David J. Zohne
Richard F. & Carol S. Zweifel
Anonymous - 18

*Deceased



UNITED WAY
OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY
Legacy Society

CREATING A THRIVING COMMUNITY WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

Planning for our community's future is a key component to our work. Our long-standing connection to our community has allowed us to successfully identify and solve pressing needs in our region for 100 years. By creating an outlet for planned gifts, our donors can continue to help us make a difference for 100 more years to come.

"Being a longtime volunteer with our local United Way, I've seen first-hand all the great work this organization does for our community."

By leaving a legacy gift, I have ability to play a role in ensuring their work can continue for many years to come."

-Mark S Lewandrowski
Legacy Society Founders' Circle Member

unitedwaymv.org/legacy



**United Way of the
Mohawk Valley**

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Utica, NY 13502
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